

## WAR NOTES—By Carl Sandburg

If the universal military service law goes into effect—and it reaches married men of 22 and 23 years of age—then we may have the spectacle here in Chicago of young Marshall Field III. and young Henry Field wearing uniforms and fighting for the defense of a realm wherein they are financial princes.

While the Field boys are in town this week maybe they will tell us why it is more honorable to ride polo ponies down in North Carolina than to ride First Illinois cavalry horses.

In the grocery stores where men and women buy things to eat is where war is most freely cursed these days. Grocers tell me more people are buying in small quantities lately. Customers lay down more money and carry away smaller packages than they used to. The world-wide pinch of this thing works to end the war.

I have been in labor union offices, in the haunts of peace societies, Socialists, anarchists and the I. W. W. lately. And for the first time since August, 1914, there may be found in all these places men and women who are not afraid of what the war will bring to this country. Some of the softest-hearted pacifists that ever loved Jesus are now saying that out of the chaos, wreck and death into which this nation is entering may come big, unpredictable events of equal value with the Russian revolution.

The Socialists—and particularly the German Socialists—are the one element sticking out most strongly for peace. They are the best friends the kaiser has now at voicing the Prussian hate of Woodrow Wilson. There is an American Socialist element, however, that sees the war as a tremendous gamble, out of which may come big things for industrial democracy.

The I. W. W. is not bothering about the war. It is not saying yes or no about it. The I. W. W. is organizing.

The most complete news and the best editorials on the Russian situation of the past month have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor. In battling the Prussian autocracy the Christian Scientists seem to be doing their share.

Out at the Workers' Institute on Ashland av. are Russian Jews who say all the fearful cost of the war to date has been worth blood and the money spent for what it has brought Russia. Where they used to be terrible haters of war they now feel it is a colossal hazard that may bring anything. Some predict that secrecy of public records and whimsical despotic mandates on the part of Jake Loeb running the school board will one way or another come to an end if we go into war. They also feel that if the Russian people were able to overthrow the Romanoff autocracy, the working class of Illinois will find a way to end in government by injunctions with jury trial abolished by circuit courts judges like Jesse Baldwin and Jesse Holdom. They quote Dr. Felix Adler:

"The revolution is not confined to Russia, but is the beginning of a great convulsion that will shake the whole world. It will be felt in the democratic countries themselves. It will destroy the house of lords in England. It will mean home rule for Ireland. It will change the condition of India. We shall see the establishment of real social justice."

When I was a high private in the rear rank of the 6th Illinois volunteers in 1898 I was a comrade of Ald. Rodriguez of the 15th ward. We were the boys who planted the American flag on the island of Porto Rico. The alderman wishes me to state at this time: